

Claims 1, 2, and 5-10 have now been allowed. Provisionally withdrawn claims 3, 4, and 11 are dependent upon allowed claim 1 and include all of the limitations per part (b) of that allowed generic claim. Therefore, applicants respectfully suggest that claims 3, 4, and 11 are no longer withdrawn from consideration and should be similarly allowed as being dependent upon allowed generic claim 1.

Claim 12 (and its dependent claims 13 and 17) were rejected as being anticipated by Bataille (U.S. 3,092,085) because "passage 16a of Bataille is read as a 'stem passageway' per part (b) of claim 12". Upon studying this newly cited reference, applicants agree that, as originally presented, claim 12 did not distinguish from Bataille's drilled hole ("stem passageway") 16a that might be interpreted as having semi-circular "sidewalls".

Therefore, applicants' claim 12 has been amended herein to clarify the definition of applicants' "stem passageway" to include the hydrodynamic curvatures that facilitate the reduction of undesirable turbulence that can interrupt the smooth flow of high pressure/high velocity fluids.

As different from applicants' invention as now defined in claim 12 (and as explained in applicants' specification and best seen in applicants' FIG. 14), the sidewalls of Bataille's drilled hole/passage 16a, when viewed in a cross section taken perpendicular to the central axis of Bataille's piston 16, are formed with straight and parallel lines. Bataille does not show, describe, or suggest hydrodynamically curved sidewalls.

Since claim 12, as clarified herein, now distinguishes from the Bataille reference as well as the other prior art of record, and since it defines a novel invention, it is now in proper condition for allowance.

Rejected claims 13 and 17 are both dependent on amended and allowable claim 12 and, therefore, are also allowable.

Regarding provisionally withdrawn claims 16 and 18: Claim 18 has been cancelled; claim 16 is dependent on amended and allowable



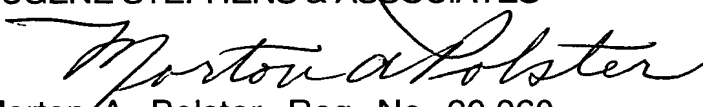
5

claim 12 and includes all of the limitations of that allowable generic claim. Therefore, applicants respectfully suggest that claim 16 be no longer withdrawn from consideration and be similarly allowed as being dependent upon allowable generic claim 12.

In conclusion, claims 1, 2, and 5-10 have been allowed. Provisionally withdrawn claims 3, 4, and 11 are dependent upon allowed generic claim 1 and should be similarly allowed. Generic claim 12 has been amended and placed in allowable form, and claims 13-17 are all dependent upon allowable generic claim 12. Therefore, all claims 1-17 are either allowed or in condition for allowance, and applicants respectfully request such allowance.

Following allowance of the just-identified claims, applicants will file formal drawings to place this case in condition to be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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